

Message Text

PAGE 01 LAHORE 01260 040733Z

16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 EUR-25 EA-11

DRC-01 COME-00 AGR-20 INT-08 SCEM-02 DPW-01 TRSE-00

/218 W

----- 009950

R 040351Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9730

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 1260

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO IN LAHORE AFTER US VISIT

BEGIN SUMMARY: BHUTTO'S FIRST VISIT TO LAHORE AFTER RETURN FROM US WAS CAREFULLY PLANNED TRIUMPH FOR RETURNING HERO. HE APPEARS AS RESULT OF US TRIP TO HAVE ENHANCED HIS POPULARITY IN LAHORE. WHILE FANFARE OF BHUTTO'S ARRIVAL UNDERScoreD IMPORTANCE GOVT GIVES TO HIS US TRIP, LOCAL POPULACE IS RECEPTIVE TO IDEA OF CLOSER TIES WITH US AT LEAST IN PART BECAUSE OF RECENT HIGHLY VISIBLE US FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS. BHUTTO SPENT REMAINDER OF 3-DAY LAHORE VISIT IN WORKING SESSIONS WITH TOP LEADERSHIP FROM CENTER AND PROVINCES ON LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS, AND COUNTRY-WIDE ECONOMIC PICTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. BHUTTO'S FIRST VISIT TO LAHORE (BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 29 AND OCTOBER 1) AFTER HIS RETURN FROM U.S. WAS IN NATURE OF TRIUMPH, WITH MASSIVE CROWDS AT AIRPORT, ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAHORE 01260 040733Z

HIS ARRIVAL SPEECH, GARLANDS AND FLOWERS AND COLORFUL CEREMONIAL ARCHES ALONG CAVALCADE ROUTE TO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE. ENTIRE SHOW WAS WELL-DONE ALL-OUT EFFORT TO GREET RETURNING HERO. BHUTTO HAS NOT APPEARED SO POPULAR IN LAHORE SINCE HIS

TRANSITS THROUGH THIS CITY ENROUTE TO AND RETURNING FROM SIMLA LAST SUMMER.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT WERE INTENSIVE. PUNJAB GOVT AND LOCAL PPP LEADERS AND WORKERS FROM GOVERNOR DOWN DEVOTED GREAT EFFORT TO ENSURING ROUSING WELCOME. CROWDS OF SUPPORTERS WERE BUSSED AND TRUCKED IN FROM OUTLYING REGIONS OF PROVINCE AS FAR AWAY AS SARGHODA AND PARTY WORKED HARD IN LAHORE WITH FULL COOPERATION OF POLICE TO MASS NUMBERS AT AIRPORT AND ALONG ROUTE INTO GOVERNOR'S HOUSE. ATMOSPHERE WAS HOLIDAY-LIKE AND DESPITE INTENSE 98 DEGREE HEAT CROWDS REMAINED CHEERFUL AND ENTHUSIASTIC THROUGHOUT.

3. AT AIRPORT, BHUTTO HELD FORTH FOR FORTY MINUTES (WITHOUT SUN-SHADE) DURING WHICH HE DECLARED RETURN OF OCCUPIED AREAS AND RELEASE OF POW'S WAS NOT HIS OWN VICTORY BUT THAT OF PEOPLE THEMSELVES WHO SUPPORTED HIS REGIME. HE REMINDED CROWD IT WAS AT LAHORE AIRPORT WHILE ENROUTE TO SIMLA THAT HE HAD PLEDGED TO PEOPLE THAT NATIONAL INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE COMPROMISED. TERRITORIES LOST TO INDIA HAVE NOW BEEN REGAINED AND PRISONERS ARE ON THEIR WAY HOME -- NOT A BAD ACHIEVEMENT WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT IN MIDDLE EAST, AFTER SEVEN YEARS, ARABS ARE STILL TRYING TO FORCE ISRAEL TO VACATE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BANGLADESH RECOGNITION SHOULD BE LEFT TO HIM SINCE HE WILL NEVER ACT AGAINST INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SOURCE OF HIS STRENGTH. HAD HE NOT BEEN ACTING IN NATIONAL INTERESTS, INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH WOULD NOT HAVE CRITICIZED HIS SPEECH AT UN. HE, BHUTTO, WILL NOT PLEASE FOREIGN COUNTRIES SUCH AS US, SOVIET UNION AND CHINA FOR FUN OF IT, BUT ONLY TO EXTENT IT SUITS INTERESTS OF PAKISTAN. MEANWHILE, HE IS OPTIMISTIC OVER COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO RECOVER FROM TERRIBLE LOSSES SUSTAINED FROM FLOODS. ALL ENERGIES OF COUNTRY WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD REBUILDING SHATTERED ECONOMY. HE PERSONALLY, GOVERNOR KHAR, AND COUNTRY'S SENIOR MINISTERS HAD VISITED THROUGHOUT FLOODED AREAS TO HELP SUFFERING PEOPLE. REGRETFULLY, OPPOSITION HAD DEVOTED ITSELF TO CRITICISM OF REGIME, RATHER THAN TO ASSISTANCE WHICH FLOOD-AFFECTED PEOPLE NEEDED.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAHORE 01260 040733Z

4. DURING REMAINDER OF SATURDAY, AND ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY, BHUTTO HELD SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH SENIOR LEADERS FROM CENTER AND ALL FOUR PROVINCES ON QUESTIONS OF LAW AND ORDER, COUNTRY'S OVER-ALL ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND PROGRESS OF FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE LAW AND ORDER SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY AMONG OTHERS CENTRAL INTERIOR MINISTER QAYYUM, GENERAL TIKKA KHAN AND IG'S OF POLICE FROM EACH PROVINCE. SUNDAY MEETING ON FLOOD RELIEF DISCUSSED PROGRESS ON REHABILITATION OF FLOOD VICTIMS, PRODUCTION TARGETS ON ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, AND WAYS IN WHICH COMING 'RABI' CROP CAN BE MAXIMIZED. PRESS REPORTED THAT ECONOMIC SESSIONS ON OCTOBER 1 REVIEWED PROGRESS OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN

STEEL, FERTILIZER, OIL AND GAS, CEMENT, SUGAR.

5. WE HAVE NO FIRM CORROBORATION BUT KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL SOURCES CLAIM PRIME MINISTER UTILIZED LAHORE VISIT FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH KHAR AND TOP PUNJAB PPP LEADERSHIP OF RECENT MOVES BY PROVINCIAL PART HIGH COMMAND TO REPLACE PARTY OFFICE BEARERS AT ALL LEVELS THROUGHOUT PROVINCE AS PART OF REORGANIZATION EFFORTS LOOKING TO NEW PARTY ELECTIONS WITHIN FEW MONTHS. REORGANIZATION MOVES HAVE HAD EFFECT ON PARTY MEMBERSHIP SOMEWHAT LIKE HOT WATER THROWN IN BEEHIVE, SO PRIME MINISTER'S TALENTS FOR PACIFICATION AND COMPROMISE WERE NEEDED. LOCAL SPECULATION ALSO HAS IT THAT BHUTTO IS TAKING PERSONAL INTEREST IN FORTHCOMING BY-ELECTION IN GUJRAT FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT VACATED BY NEW PRESIDENT FAZAL ALAHI; INDICATIONS ARE THAT CONTEST BETWEEN PPP AND UDF CANDIDATES WILL BE TOUGH AND CLOSE.

6. IT WAS WIDELY ASSUMED HERE BEFORE BHUTTO ARRIVED THAT HE WOULD UTILIZE OCCASION TO VISIT WAGAH BORDER POST 18 MILES TO EAST TO EXTEND PERSONAL GREETINGS TO SECOND BATCH OF PAKISTANI POW'S ARRIVING FROM INDIA; ONE RUMOR MAKING ROUNDS WAS THAT HE MIGHT MEET THERE WITH INDIAN PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI WHO WAS REPORTED TO BE IN AMRITSAR FOR OPENING OF NEW TV STATION. IT WAS ALSO THOUGHT THAT HE MIGHT VISIT SOME OF THE CAMPS SET UP IN LAHORE FOR OUTGOING BENGALLEES AND ARRIVING BIHARIS AND POW'S. IN THE EVENT, BHUTTO DID NOT STIR FROM GOVERNOR'S HOUSE AFTER HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO PUNJAB CAPITAL.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 LAHORE 01260 040733Z

7. COMMENT: EFFORT PUT INTO BHUTTO'S ARRIVAL IN LAHORE SUPPORTS THESIS THAT GOVT WISHES TO PORTRAY HIS VISIT TO US AS MAJOR DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT. IDEA OF BEING MORE FRIENDLY WITH US IS A POPULAR CONCEPT IN LAHORE THESE DAYS. LOCAL POPULATION HAS HAD MANY WEEKS OF DAILY EXPOSURE TO US FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS IN FORM OF NUMEROUS CARGO PLANE ARRIVALS, CONSTANT SHUTTling OF CROP SPRAYING HELICOPTERS, AND (FOR ONCE) AN ATTENTIVE AND APPRECIATIVE LOCAL PRESS. HOWEVER, OTHER SIDE OF COIN IS THAT LOCAL EXPECTATIONS OF MORE FORTHCOMING US SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S SECURITY HAVE GROWN APACE WITH BHUTTO US VISIT.

KING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, DISASTER RELIEF, POW RETURN, PARTY ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAHORE01260
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LAHORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731065/abqcefsx.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO IN LAHORE AFTER US VISIT
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE INFO ISLAMABAD
KARACHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005